

**Business Area #4:**  
**Central Square**

**Boundaries:** the Conrail Railroad, Erie Street, Fairmont Street, River Street, Howard Street, Western Avenue, Pleasant Street, Green Street, Sellers Street, Bigelow Street, Doyle Way, Inman Street, and Broadway

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: shops, offices, restaurants between 200 and 830 Massachusetts Avenue, offices on Bishop Allen Drive, restaurants on Green Street, establishments between 770 and 910 Main Street, and City Hall



*Central Square*

Throughout the decade of the 1980s, Central Square averaged 25 commercial robberies annually. Since 1995, **commercial robberies** have been on a downward spiral in this business district. Despite the fact that Central Square is at the heart of the retail core and hot spot for nighttime activity, and offers quick escape routes to brigands via rapid transit, there were only two commercial robberies recorded here in 2001. However, commercial robberies soared to seven incidents in 2002, the highest total in nearly a decade for this business area. There were two bank robberies at different locations in October with similar suspect descriptions. In all three of the bank robberies in Central Square in 2002, a threatening note was passed to the teller; no weapons were shown on any of these occasions. All three incidents remain under investigation. A gang of juveniles robbed a Mass Ave gas station in March and were subsequently arrested by the Brookline police. The other two commercial heists involved a cab and a convenience store during the third quarter of the year. • **Commercial breaks** skyrocketed in Business Area #4 in 2002. Twenty nine percent of all commercial breaks citywide occurred in Central Square. The thirty-four additional breaks represent a 147% increase from last year's total of 23. Thirty-eight of the fifty-seven breaks were concentrated in the last four months of the year. On the first weekend in November, eleven breaks were reported and eight were in the same office building. One week later a Cambridge resident with a serious drug problem was arrested and linked to nearly 30 commercial breaks in and around Central Square. • A harbinger of tough economic times is the significant increase in **shoplifting** from 63 incidents in 2001 to 104 in 2002. A high percentage of the shoplifting arrest involve the homeless.

CRIME	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Larceny from Building	68	113	73	95	87
Larceny from Person	65	63	67	77	81
Commercial Burglary	21	42	25	23	57
Commercial Robbery	4	5	4	2	7
Shoplifting	33	58	45	63	104
Fraud/Flim	55	52	59	75	95

Flam/Counterfeiting					
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